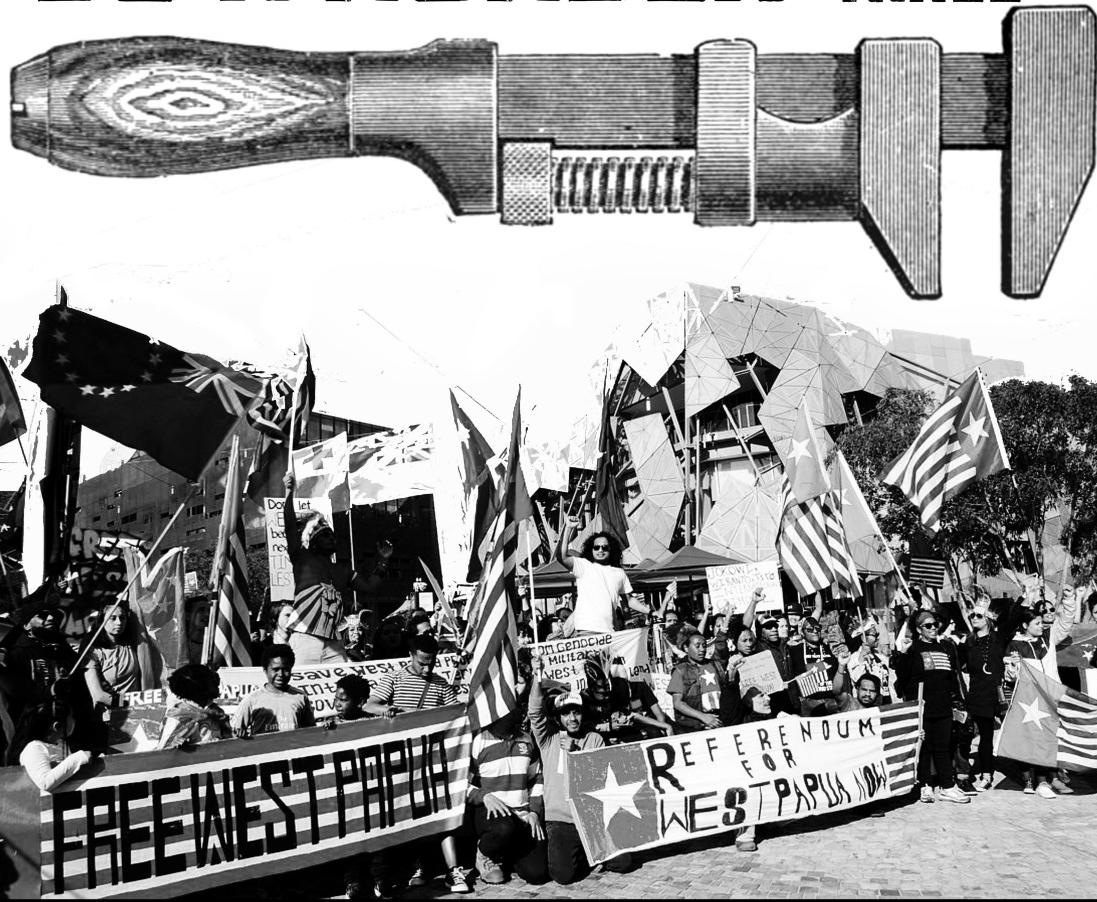


MONKEYWRENCH DOWNUNDER ISSUE THREE



**Energy Crisis - Ecological Crisis
Capitalist Crisis - Social War**



Kayapó woman warrior, Tuíra, at the 1989 Altamira gathering protesting dams on the Xingu river, Brazil.

Monkeywrench Downunder - Issue 3 – July 2013

**energy crises -- social war -- ecological-crises
- capitalist crisis**

Contact: monkeywrenchdownunder@gmail.com

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Direct action enables people to develop a new sense of self-confidence and awareness of individual and collective power.

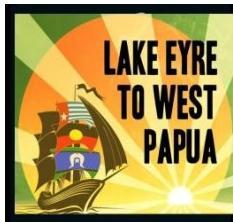
Direct action is founded on the idea that people can develop the ability for self-rule only through practice, and proposes that all persons directly decide the important issues facing them.

Direct action is not just a tactic, it is individuals asserting their ability to control their own lives and to participate in social life without the need for mediation or control by bureaucrats or professional politicians.

Direct action encompasses a whole range of activities, from organising co-ops to engaging in resistance to authority.

Direct action places moral commitment above positive law. Direct action is not a last resort when other methods have failed, but the preferred way of doing things.

(Text from Reclaim the Streets leaflet distributed in July 1996)



FREEDOM FLOTILLA

Land and Sea convoy for Peace and Justice



"We have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters from across the water. We must bring the water and the fire, the love and the music to heal the country and move in solidarity." Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Arabunna Aboriginal Elder

Once upon a time the land was joined. Australia, split from her children, the islands of Melanesia. Just below the surface of the sea that now divides us are hidden treasures, forgotten stories and deep cultural knowledge. As we sift through the sands of time, reconnecting ancient culture, we find story lines that reveal a deep connection between the lands and peoples.

Across the water from Australia's northern shore lies the island of Papua. The indigenous peoples of these two lands share deep cultural and historical connections and common experiences of colonisation. In 1962, Indonesia invaded the western half of Papua. Since then as many as 500,000 West Papuans have died as the result of violence and poverty under the military occupation.

Yet the plight of the West Papuans remains hidden from Australian's view by a massive military presence, a near-total ban on foreign journalists and NGOs, the interests of mining corporations and political indifference. The Freedom Flotilla to West Papua aims to overcome this divide, to reconnect the two ancient cultures, and to reveal the barriers that keep human rights abuses in West Papua from the attention of the international community.

We are inviting friends and family of all nations at the shores of Lake Eyre in July 2013 for a music festival celebrating the survival of the old country. We will stand strong to make an action of creative resistance against the destruction caused by multinational mining companies on this land.

From there we will follow the dreaming story of the water from the Lake Eyre basin to its source, the land of our brothers and sisters in West Papua. Ancient water collected from the sacred mound springs of Arabunna country, and

ashes from the fires of Lake Eyre and the Aboriginal Tent Embassies across Australia will be carried across the country in a convoy of artists, musicians, activists and Indigenous ambassadors from Australia and West Papua. These offerings of peace and justice will be taken on a flotilla of boats from Cairns to West Papua, as a symbol of support for freedom and justice for West Papuan people.

Currently in West Papua military repression has intensified with the proclamation of the Federated Republic of West Papua, increasing mass mobilisations organised by the West Papuan National Committee (KNPB), and the escalating resistance to foreign rule by West Papuan society as a whole. The targeting of human and environmental rights groups has intensified since KNPB leader Mako Tabuni was assassinated in June 2012. Australian Government funded and trained military have been responsible for such illegal killings and torture of West Papuans, who are simply expressing their right to self-determination.

The time has come to take international action, to take responsibility for our complicity in these injustices, and recognize the humanity we share is more important than the military and economic interests of our governments and corporations. The Freedom Flotilla to West Papua will break down the borders imposed by colonisation and capitalism and reunite two peoples separated by the sea.

'We were one people, we still are one people we must up hold our cultural connection, the old land is calling us.' Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Arabunna Aboriginal Elder

Social-war, Energy, Climate-war email–list invitation

The capitalist world-system has entered a multiple crisis: (1) energy security, (2) climate stability, (3) food production, (4) profits (5) political legitimacy, and (6) a crises of work. Even in the view of the mainstream it has become clear, that the financial crisis has turned into an economic crisis threatening political legitimacy in many countries. Yet at the same time, other aspects of the multiple crises are ignored. Many radicals are not fully aware that peak oil – the maximum of global oil production – might already be reached or will be reached in the near future. It is argued that other resource peaks follow not far behind. Hardly anyone draws any conclusions from this.

This email list is a place to discuss responses from below, those of the exploited and those involved in struggles against capitalism, state and the multiple crises of our times. Over a 100 radicals from around the world discuss these issues from anti-state and anti-capitalist perspectives and have shared analysis over the last several years. Discussions have covered a range of topics

- **The struggle for land as a central focus of class struggle in an age of resource peaks.**
- **The limitations of ‘clean’ energy and the critique of technological fixes. Ie. Indigenous resistance to windfarms in Mexico to strikes in the German wind sector. Solar panel toxic-waste struggle in China.**
- **‘Green’ capitalism’s ability (or not) to adapt to climate crises and create new forms of accumulation.**
- **The scale of the climate crisis and how to respond as radicals.**
- **Class composition and just-transitions/eco-revolution? Discussion of the ‘meta-industrial class’ consisting of some indigenous, peasants, housewives, subsistence living especially women in this analysis ? Contrasting with a critique of reformist trade-unionism with green edges and shit green jobs.**
- **Critique of Geo-engineering experiments such as ocean fertilisation.**
- **Anarchist and leftist critiques of the ‘authoritarian primitivism’ of groups like Deep Green Resistance.**
- **Eco-insurrectionism, good and bad!**
- **De-growth, anarchism, radical-left., autonomist Marxist, left-communist, climate-justice, eco-feminist views on ecological-energy struggles.**
- **Anti-extractivist politics and movements against mining and other infrastructure development.**
- **Indigenous notions of ‘living well’, the critique of development and ecological class struggle.**
- **Climate struggle in times of austerity.**
- **The environmentalism of the poor, China cancer villages, Latin American indigenous resistance against ‘eco-socialism’**
- **Fuel poverty – heat waves, cold snaps and housing.**

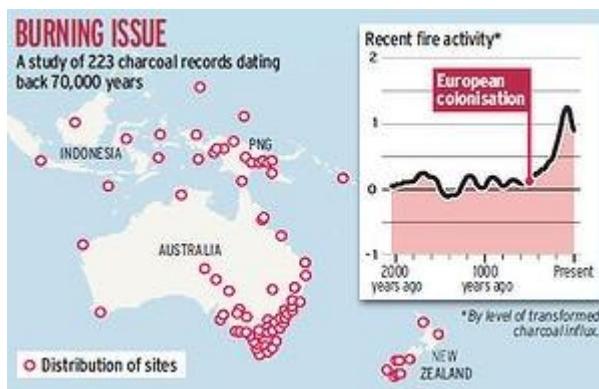
- Resource grabs, neo-liberal crisis and emergent 'green' capitalism.
- Climate hysteria and its use, critique of the greening of hate of the far right and other existing or emergent capitalist trends.

To join discussion google 'swecw-list' and follow instructions.

Colonial society has fucked the fire-cycle. Indication are that the frequency and sizes of burns that occurs nowadays resemble nothing like indigenous fire regimes. In part of the country prescribed burning occurs in too wide an area and with too great a frequency and wrong intensities, increasing fire risk, death and forest destruction.

Cold water is poured on Aboriginal burnoff culture

Deborah Smith December 06, 2010



The popular notion that Aborigines carried out widespread burning of the Australian landscape is a myth, research shows.

A study of charcoal records has found that the arrival of the first Australians about 50,000 years ago did not result in significantly greater fire activity across the continent.

An international team of scientists led by Scott Mooney, of the University of NSW, analysed results from more than 220 sites in

Australasia dating back 70,000 years, the most comprehensive survey so far.

Dr Mooney said their findings challenged a widely held view that frequent use of fire by Aborigines had had a big impact on vegetation and the environment in prehistoric times. Instead, it was the arrival of European colonists more than 200 years ago that led to a substantial increase in fires, the study showed.

"We've put the firestick in the wrong hands," Dr Mooney said. "The firestick shouldn't be in Aboriginal people's hands. It's really a European thing."

He said there were often calls after big, destructive bushfires for authorities to carry out Aboriginal-like burnoffs - frequent, low intensity fires - to manage the landscape and prevent further conflagrations.

But this was not based on evidence. The new research showed that climate, not prehistoric people, had had the biggest impact on fire in Australia.

The message was that "we're really going to have problems in the future", he said, referring to rising global temperatures.

Australia has some of the most fire prone landscapes on earth. To help determine the continent's fire history, researchers have drilled bore holes into old swamp sediments.

They then worked out the charcoal content in different layers, radiocarbon dating them to determine their age.

Dr Mooney and his team of 18 scientists analysed results from 223 sites in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and some islands in the western Pacific. Their study, published in the journal Quaternary

Science Reviews, shows that bushfire activity was high from about 70,000 to 28,000 years ago.

It decreased until about 18,000 years ago, around the time of the last glacial maximum, and then increased again, a pattern consistent with shifts between warm and cool climatic conditions.

"We found no evidence of a change in fire regimes at a continental scale at the time of Aboriginal colonisation," Dr Mooney said. During the past 2000 years, burning activity was "remarkably flat, except for the pronounced increase in fire in the past 200 years".

Report: Canada could see indigenous uprising

Former military official says poverty and anger in indigenous communities mean conditions for an "insurgency" are ripe.

Chris Arsenault Last Modified: 14 May 2013

Canada has recently seen a wave of indigenous protest through the Idle No More Movement [Reuters]

Living standards for indigenous people on par with "third world" countries, buttressed by a large population of unemployed young men in a "warrior cohort", and easy-to-target economic infrastructure, all mean Canada has conditions for a potential indigenous "insurgency".

That's according to a new report penned by a former Canadian military officer for the MacDonald Laurier Institute, a think-tank supported by corporate executives.

"For many Aboriginal people in Canada, but especially for First Nations women and children, life on-reserve is dreary, dark and dangerous," wrote Douglas Bland in the report, Canada and the first Nations: Cooperation or Conflict? "Social fractionalisation significantly increases the risk of social conflict. The phenomenon provides motives for an insurgency," read the report, issued in May.

Bland refused interview requests from Al Jazeera, but conclusions from the Queen's University professor emeritus and 30-year military veteran have worried the Canadian establishment, especially in light of indigenous-led protests associated with

the Idle No More movement, and Canada's increasing dependence on natural resource extraction.

'Ongoing injustice'

"The Canadian right-wing establishment is seizing on this to justify its own agenda of stricter controls and the continued criminalisation of native people who defend their rights," Taiaiake Alfred, chair of the centre for indigenous governance at the University of Victoria, and one of Canada's most influential aboriginal intellectuals, told Al Jazeera. "The positive elements of Canadian society - progressive values and social justice - are founded on the ongoing injustice of land theft and murder of indigenous people."

In November, Paul Martin, Canada's former prime minister and a business tycoon, echoed Alfred's comments, albeit in a softer tone. "We have never admitted to ourselves that we were, and still are, a colonial power," he said.

We have never admitted to ourselves that we were, and still are, a colonial power

One of the world's most developed countries, Canada is home to about 1.2 million indigenous people out of a population of 34.5 million. The indigenous population is rising faster than other demographic groups, despite drastically higher rates of poverty, incarceration and substance abuse.

If indigenous Canadians were ranked as a country according to the United Nations Human Development Index, which measures living standards and life expectancy, they would have social outcomes comparable to residents of Kazakhstan and Albania.

Across Canada's prairies, the heartland of the country's agricultural industry and a centre for mining, about 42 percent of the indigenous population will be under the age of 30 by 2016, more than twice the youth rate in the non-indigenous community.

"The fact that Canada's natural wealth flows unfairly from Aboriginal lands and peoples to non-Aboriginal Canadians is a long-standing and justifiable grievance," the report said.

A large number of poorly educated, unemployed young men - a "warrior cohort", as Bland put it - provide fertile recruits for militant groups, the report says.

Using a formula first developed by researchers at Oxford University, Bland argued that the "feasibility" of unrest, rather than just root causes, could determine outcomes. Most of Canada's resource industries, including mines, dams and oil facilities, are located on land claimed by indigenous people - and attacking such facilities is easily feasible, the report said.

Comprising about four percent of the population, indigenous people make up 23 percent of Canada's prisoners, a 43 percent increase during the five years prior to 2013, according to a government report released in March.

There is near universal acceptance that the status quo is unacceptable, but across Canada's coffee shops, factories - and even within the MacDonald Laurier Institute - there is no consensus on the causes.

Other solutions

In a separate report for the institute, former government senior economic adviser Brian Lee Crowley and professor Kevin Coates paint an optimistic picture, far removed from fears over blockades, sabotage or a full-blown uprising.

"Blockades may be news," they wrote, "but the new joint ventures, long-term training programmes and successful indigenous businesses are what will reshape our common future."

They argue that indigenous communities are ready to hit a "sweet spot" as a series of Supreme Court decisions on long-standing treaties will give them a larger stake - environmental and financial - in natural resource development.

Other intellectuals, however, say support for mines, dams and other megaprojects with large environmental costs won't help get people out of poverty, and are contrary to indigenous support for sustainability.

"Crowley's argument is what the government has been saying for the last 150 years; historical experience has shown that it doesn't work," Peter Kulchyski, professor of native studies at the University of Manitoba, told Al Jazeera. "The communities that are worst off tend to be close to these resource developments ... These partnerships between natural resource exploitation companies and First Nations generate some cash for the reserve elite, but not much in terms of employment opportunities for average people."

Especially in northern Canada, many indigenous people still depend on hunting and trapping for their food, and Kulchyski says this way of life should be preserved through land management deals, the sale of meat and eco-tourism projects rather than large-scale developments - which often imperil the land.

Financial confusion

On reserves, the territory of indigenous Canadians, property rights function differently than in other parts of the country, making it difficult for residents to buy and sell their homes or land because the territories are often administered through a form of communal property law.

Outside large-scale resource extraction, a lack of property rights make business development difficult, conservatives argue, contending that free markets are needed to end poverty.

Many Canadians blame indigenous leaders for the poverty of their communities, arguing corruption is rampant on reserves. Conservative Canadians often say indigenous people should leave their traditional territories on remote lands where employment opportunities are scarce and move to cities where jobs, training and education are more easily accessible.

After going on a hunger strike and making international headlines in an attempt to draw attention to the dire poverty faced by residents of Attawapiskat, a northern indigenous community, Chief Teresa Spence faced insinuations of mismanagement in January, after the government leaked an audit showing accounting gaps in more than \$100m of federal transfers to the community.

Many Canadians say indigenous people receive too much money from the federal government, but Kulchyski says that isn't true. "The money comes to them from a separate envelope, so that's where the confusion comes from," he said. "They are actually getting less money than the rest of us [on a per capita basis] and that is reflected in the horrifying living conditions people are dealing with."

Bland's Laurier Institute Report comes on the heels of renewed interest in indigenous issues from Canadian society, following Chief Spence's hunger strike and the Idle No More movement, a campaign driven by social media and popular protest to draw attention to poverty and marginalisation.

Professor Alfred, who fought as a US marine before joining academia, believes Idle No More is a positive step for education, but its ability to change fundamental social structures is limited. He said he thinks recent reports about a possible "insurgency" are vastly overblown and based on poor research; part of a political ploy by another ex-military man to gain more funding for a broader crackdown against dissenters.

"As an activist, I am hoping and praying for more militant action," Alfred said. "But as a political analyst, there is no objective evidence that will happen. As it stands, all the evidence points to continued colonialism."



Krasnodar: Police arrests two suspects accused of ecotage and bombing of gas pipelines (Russia)

Russian police arrested two suspected eco-warriors in Krasnodar. They are accused of placing bombs on gas pipelines and torching of construction equipment. According to the police their activity record dates back to 1988 (!!!). It appears cops attempt to blame them in all ecotage actions that have happened in the region since late XX century.

Corporate media leaked that at least one of the pair considers himself radical ecologist and has served several sentences in the past for similar “crimes”.

It is a wonderful fact that only now, after the arrest, the media and police chose to admit that the ecotage actions like 3 separate bombings of pipelines under Sochi ever happened (one in 2007, 2 in 2012, nobody was hurt during the explosions). Or the fact that somebody has been successfully sabotaging heavy vehicles, equipment and oil rigs for about 25 years right under the nose of Olympics-2014 project. Unfortunately all these actions have never been covered in anarchist or ecologist press, so this case stands as a blazing example that acts do not speak louder than words by themselves. Russian government was very effective in muting this resistance from starters. With the help of “comrades” from the legal part of protest movement, of course.

Wanna-be “ecologist leader” from Krasnodar have already played Juda’s part by stating that the arrested ones do not belong to ecological movement, that direct actions are a crime in the eyes of legal ecologists, a practice abandoned long ago. A hearty FUCK YOU goes to eco-clown and eco-tourist Rudomaha. By the way, he likes to frequent anti-nuclear protests in Germany, just for you to know...

Communiqué for Anarchist Actions in Barcelona and Response to the Nihilist Comrades

With this communiqué, we wish to claim the following actions, as part of a struggle for the destruction of the State, Capital, patriarchy, and any system of domination, a struggle for the free creation of voluntary and solidaristic relations at the global and local level; in other words, a struggle for anarchy.

May 5, at night, we told a child the story of the maquis and the anarchist struggle against Franco and against democracy.

May 13, we cooked a healthy meal for a comrade who has a chronic illness.

May 17, we wrote a letter to a comrade imprisoned for participating in a riot.

June 12, we took care of the infant of some friends who suffer economic precarity and the imposed obligation of wage labor.

June 16, we spoke publically with our neighbors about the need to burn the banks and attack the police in order to realize our dreams.

June 19, we told some leftist activists that the masked-ones were not police infiltrators but ourselves, and that it was necessary and good to mask up and take the streets with force.

June 20, we gifted vegetables from our garden to friends and neighbors, without money or exchange. Why do we claim these actions? In the last months, we have also barricaded roads with dumpsters, burned banks, injured journalists, smashed shop windows, and attacked cops.

For us, the attacks against the system are essential to our struggle. But we've fooled ourselves. A struggle does not consist only in attacks. The attacks are NOT more important than the need to care for ourselves, to preserve and spread our collective history, to create relations based in the gift, solidarity, and reciprocity, to imagine new worlds and new struggles, to confront our isolation and establish subversive and honest relationships with people outside of the categoric and political ghetto in which the Spectacle hides us.

With a long memory, it becomes apparent that we have lost several times in the past, and that the hardest of all is the historical fracturing and the loss of our own memory of struggle; it's having to start from scratch. Hyperalienation, against which nihilism is a logical response, is nothing more than the result of defeat in past struggles. We find ourselves in a totality which must be destroyed in its entirety, only because nothing remains of what we built up in the past. So as not to lose everything every single time we rise up, we have to sustain ourselves, not as isolated individuals but as a commune, a collective and multigenerational struggle. And this cannot be accomplished with a singular prioritization of the attacks.

The hierarchy of tactics belonging to the Left was minimally transformed within nihilism: they took the head of the spear, the actions that were supposedly more important, as the only ones that mattered, and forgot about all the rest.

It is a patriarchal and counterproductive vision. It is the forgetting of all the actions—first disappeared by the patriarchy, then by capitalism, and then by the supposedly anticapitalist Left—that are necessary for life and for struggle as well. The most aggressive tactics only make sense and can be sustained and repeated in a complex of actions of all types, as long as they are libertarian and direct.

By not understanding that struggle means carrying with us a new world that is waiting to be born in the ashes of the dominant system, we transform ourselves into mere weapons against capitalism, in tools dedicated to destroy, without the other things that human beings need to live and fight. It is capitalism that wishes to treat us as tools. We should not do the same.

The truth is that we are overjoyed to learn of the attacks of the nihilists and other comrades. We know very well that bravery and rage are two of the most important things in order to rebel. Specifically in Barcelona, it seemed an error to us that in the last year fewer illegal attacks were realized as more opportunities to participate in broad spaces appeared. Naturally, the rise in attacks—carried out by nihilists and by more “social” comrades—pleased us. And at the global level, we laughed to find out about the kneecapping of the director of Ansaldo Nuclear in Italy, and we were inspired to read the letters of comrades (nihilist and other) imprisoned in Greece who have not submitted to fear.

But too many times we've seen comrades who, departing from desperation, impatience, and alienation, threw themselves recklessly into the war against the State that all of us live daily. They always ended up dead or in prison, and often after less than a year. And then what happened? The others, the comrades who survived, did everything we could to support each other and to support the prisoners, to not forget the slain, to not let the repression win, to not lose all our strength and not allow a historical fracture, so that we don't lose our collective memory of struggle.

But little by little this memory is lost, and every three or four years a new group appears that neglects all the other tasks of the struggle to dedicate themselves solely to the destruction of our common enemy. And when we support them but also criticize, or sometimes without even that provocation, they call us cowards for dedicating ourselves to other tasks (even though we also are in the riots or the nighttime actions), for differing with them ideologically and not glorifying their group or informal federation.

They don't know how many times they have already lost because one task they neglect is the transmission of memory. [1] Instead of a memory that is profound, alive, and strategic, they only have their martyrologies. And then we have to watch as our friends and comrades are turned into symbols—and ultimately weapons—of ideology. Some of the dead comrades were nihilists. But in the nihilist martyrology comrades who belonged neither to one side nor the other, or who were clearly from the other side in this stupid division between “socials” and “antisocials” like Lambras (Foundas) are also recuperated, and their names and images are used to encourage attacks, total destruction, without stopping to reflect on their errors or the actual projects and desires of these comrades when they were alive.

It's clear that we have to fight and this includes the possibility of death or prison. But this does not mean having to celebrate death or prison. Suicide is also a form of resistance, but it is not revolutionary.

It's clear that we have to remember our dead and our prisoners, but this does not mean converting them into martyrs and heroes.

In conclusion, we want to criticize the current state of anarchist literature, disproportionately based as it is on superficial communiqués with no context, analysis, or reflection, that only value the attacks and not the other tasks that we have to carry out in order to remain alive and powerful.

Obviously, it's helpful to find out about clandestine actions done by other comrades. It gives us strength and joy to read that some symbol of power has been smashed or burned. But it is much more useful to think (and write) about strategies of conflictivity, according to each moment and place, instead of encouraging a quantitative vision of struggle. We refuse to convert our rebellion into a mathematical equation to measure our rage: the more blows and fires we produce, the stronger we are; the greater the economic damage, the more powerful the action. This is the thinking of an economist, a general, or a simpleton.

For all these reasons, we decided to write this communiqué to claim a series of actions we consider just as important in the current situation as the attacks. They are actions we do every week, normally without thinking twice or announcing it on the internet. We publish them now to visibilize a personal worry and a weakness generalized throughout the anarchist space.

AGAINST COMMUNIQUÉS FOR ANARCHY AND ALL THE TASKS OF THE STRUGGLE

Offset David Attenborough



David thinks We should Offset our Co2-heavy lifestyles against the lives of unborn children in the Global South - We've got a better idea !

We all want David Attenborough to continue to make all those lovely Natural History Programmes on the Beeb, Right? But we are all getting worried about the CO2 that David and his team are creating by flying round the world, making those programmes. Well, we have a solution ! To allow Sir David to continue his good work, we have created an offset scheme, specifically designed to deal with this problem. With normal Offset schemes, well-off westerners pay in a amount of money, proportionate to the amount of carbon they want offsetting against some dubious scheme or other, which purports to reduce Co2 either through mono-crop tree

plantations, or untried green capitalist technology. Our scheme, however is different.

We have calculated that for each episode of his Natural History Programmes thousand of metric tonnes are emitted. We think that David and the “Optimum Population Trust” of which he is Chair has come with a splendid idea called PopOffsets. They think we should mainly offset our high, Northern Hemisphere emitting lives against the (as they hope) unrealised lives of African and Asian babies. We think they have got it slightly wrong, and think we should, as viewers of his wonderful Television programmes all make an effort not to procreate at all. After all, the average emissions per capita in the UK is a hefty 9.1 metric tonnes, compared to say, Sudan, with an average of just 0.3 tonnes a year. So, for every 33 Sudanese born, we only have to stop one baby being born here! Of course, while the average person in the UK emits on average 9.1. tonnes, we suspect, that someone of David’s Class and Wealth – and of course extensive travelling – emits far more – and we suspect the middle class viewer of his programmes emit more than average as well.

To quote: “If the problem is consumption, then of course it’s the wealthiest people we need fewer of. I mean, Britain would do much better if it had 100 million subsistence farmers, say, than 50 million people who are doctors and lawyers and bankers and [T.V. presenters]. It could have much less of a carbon footprint if it imported subsistence farmers from the Sahel, and exported bankers and lawyers to Africa. But nobody is proposing that!”

Offsetting of anykind, is in fact a load of old bollocks (see Carbon Trade Watch for details – especially the “Carbon Neutral Myth” report .) Co2 emissions do need to be reduced. We think that the best way of dealing with this is to end capitalism, which is predicated on unsustainable growth.

To get back to the target of this blog, The Optimum Population Trust emphasis on firstly, reducing population in the poorer parts of the world, and secondly population levels in general (they want the UK population reduced to 30 Million!) is totally wrong headed. Of course, they pay lip service to us (as opposed to “them”) reducing our levels of consumption, and ask people to pledge on the website to have no more than two children (well, I suppose that’s better than China at least!). They all so mention many things which are positive: Womens Rights, access to contraception...Of course both these things are good, but it’s equally clear that the best way of persuading people to have smaller families is to raise their standard of

living, and reducing global inequality. Though, as it turns out high populations are not the problem at all.

Conclusion: (Taken From “Too Many of Whom” by No One Is Illegal”.)

THE PROBLEM IS NEITHER HUMAN NUMBERS NOR HUMAN NATURE, BUT HUMAN INEQUALITY.

“The great irony,” says Betsy Hartmann, “is that in most cases population growth comes down faster the less you focus on it as a policy priority, and the more you focus on women’s rights and basic human needs.”⁵² If even a fraction of the energy that’s been put into population-control rhetoric were to be spent examining the detailed record and achievements of the population-control movement, it would collapse like a house of cards; indeed, it has almost done that on a number of occasions already. It is a highly dangerous distraction from the world’s real problems, which are now becoming globally life-threatening. When a population “explodes” (or collapses) it indicates that the people’s lives have been made precarious. The British population explosion of the 18th-19th century happened among a traumatised people, made suddenly dependent on their, and their children’s wage-labour. This “development model” was subsequently inflicted on the rest of the world, and still hasn’t finished playing out. Population can, of course, also collapse if people are pushed hard enough.

To some extent, the decline is due to an insecure, high working-hours, high-cost existence: experienced both by slum-dwellers in Rio and by young professionals in London and Paris. But when people’s security is restored, normality is soon restored. In recent decades, it has become possible to observe the process almost in real time: in Costa Rica, population-growth had levelled off after the creation of a welfare state, but took off again after 1975, when its welfare state was scrapped⁵³, as it also did in Sri Lanka (under pressure from the World Bank) after 1977, and for the same reason. In China (whose one-child policy was lauded by Western population-controllers) birth-rates were falling well before the policy was instituted. But then in the 1980s came the market reforms and sudden loss of security for millions. However, where equality prevails, humans and their environments thrive. Examples include present-day Cuba: the only country in the world that meets its UN Human Development targets within a sustainable ecological footprint and where health outcomes are better in most respects than in the USA, but without the USA’s massive environmental cost.⁵⁴.

Of course, we think it would be very difficult to run capitalism without “volunteering” significant numbers (a majority, in fact) of humanity to untermensch status. But that is a problem for the capitalists to solve, not ours. If they can find a way of doing capitalism in which “we” really does mean “all of us” and “equality” means just that, we will welcome it with open arms: they will have achieved socialism. Till then we must resist all their attempts to distract attention from their foul-ups by pitting “us” against “them”.

The problems that the population-controllers blame on the poor are much more readily attributable to the rich. It is the rich, overwhelmingly, whose overconsumption drives environmental degradation and global warming. It is not just the impact of all those cars, houses and plane journeys, but also of the work that the world’s poor are increasingly obliged to do, supplying their needs and whims; and the natural resources that are required to satisfy those needs and whims; and the devastation that’s needed and the wars that have to be fought to secure those resources. And so on. So “it can be said with confidence that the world’s richest people cause emissions thousands of times that of the world’s poorest”⁵⁵.

According to Danny Dorling:

“It is almost certainly an underestimate to claim that the richest tenth of the world’s population have a greater negative environmental impact than all the rest put together. [...] And, of the richest 10th of the world’s population, the richest 10th consume more, even than the other half a billion or so affluent.⁵⁶

1 percent of the world’s population is a very tiny, irresponsible minority. It would take very little oppression to resolve the problems they create, and of a very much milder nature than the sheer cruelty visited on poor people, in vain attempts to stop them migrating and having babies. The whole population-control bandwagon looks very much like a cheap and cowardly getout to avoid confronting that inconsiderate, but unfortunately rather powerful, few.

Full essay available at: noii.org.uk/2010/01/13/too-many-of-whom-and-too-much-of-what/

Other Critiques:

spinwatch.org/-articles-by-category-mainmenu-8/53-climate-change/5335-attenboroughs-political-foray-criticised-as-simplistic

guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/sep/28/population-growth-super-rich

Mob arson attack Greece Gold Mine site

An arson attack took place on the worksite of mining company Hellas Gold in the Skouries forest in north-eastern Halkidiki in the night from 16 to 17 February 2013.

An initial report, posted by the pro-mining blog “Citizen of the Aristotelis Municipality”, stated that 50 to 70 individuals wearing full-face hoods and armed with shotguns and petrol bombs entered the site shortly after midnight and set equipments and vehicles on fire. The report further claimed that the assailants immobilized the two security guards who were on the site and held them hostage after dousing them with petrol and threatening to set them on fire. The value of the shares of the majority owner of Hellas Gold, Canadian company Eldorado Gold, dropped by 6% in the Toronto stock exchange following news of the attack.

The Skouries forest is at the centre of a hot dispute between the mining company, Hellas Gold, which is owned at 95% by Canadian mining giant Eldorado Gold and at 5% by Greek public works company Hellaktor, and local communities. The company claims that a pharaonic plan for mining of gold and copper in the area will benefit the region through the creation of some 5,000 direct and indirect jobs, while local residents argue that not only the dubious terms under which mining rights were transferred to Hellas Gold mean that the Greek State will receive no financial benefits from the mining project, but also that activities planned by Hellas Gold will cause massive damage to the environment which will in turn lead to the loss of many more jobs in the existing sectors of the local economy (farming, animal husbandry, fisheries, beekeeping, food processing and tourism). The residents' claims are supported by research conducted by various independent scientific institutions such as the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Technical Chamber of Macedonia. The fact that the company has the support of the government in the name of “securing foreign investments” has often resulted in extremely heavy-handed police tactics against protesting residents, for example during a demonstration on 21 October 2012. More radiobubble reporting on this issue is available on the tag Skouries (in English, French and Spanish) as well as [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) (in Greek).

There was considerable confusion as to what happened exactly on the mining worksite in the night of 16 to 17 February. The claim that the security guards were taken hostage, tied up and doused with fuel spread through the media even though it was not confirmed in the press release of Eldorado Gold or the statement issued by

Hellas Gold. According to Greek news website TVXS, local media reported that police officers denied that there had been a hostage situation following the attack on the site, as security guards pulled back after seeing the group of 40 or so people who were coming. [1] The official statement issued by the Ministry of Public Order after Minister Nikos Dendias travelled to the regional capital of Halkidiki, Polygyros, did not mention any specific events; it merely reported that the Minister said: "First, Greece is a European State with the rule of law. Second, we all have the obligation to secure the possibility of foreign investments in this country. It is well-known that this is the only solution to face the huge and dramatic problem of unemployment. Thank you." Security camera footage of the attack, which was released to the media, also shows no evidence of a hostage situation. All indications are therefore that the claim that guards were taken hostage and doused with fuel by the assailants does not stand, even though it was repeated ad nauseam on TV talk shows and included in the statements of security guards to the police.

The police proceeded to a first wave of random detentions in the morning of 17 February. Local residents contacted by phone told us that, of the first 27 people who were detained in the mountain villages near Skouries, some were company employees who favour the implementation of the mining project. This first group was released before another group of 4 people was detained, who were also released within hours. Things became more serious however when an arrest warrant in flagrante was issued in the night from 17 to 18 February against three prominent community members who oppose the mining project, Lazaros Toskas, Tolis Papageorgiou and Maria Kadoglou. The warrant was based on statements by the worksite's security guards to the police, which repeated the claims that they were taken hostage and doused with petrol by the assailants. At the end of his statement, one of the guards argued that these three individuals were the moral instigators of the attack, as "all three, in posts on the internet and statements to the media, incited opponents [of the mining project] to acts of violence." Another one argued that "Tolis Papageorgiou said in a recent speech in Komotini that he opposes mining and doesn't care if his struggle against it results in the loss of human life, Lazaros Toskas is present in every protest against the company and Maria Kadoglou, through the web page she administrates, incites people to protest against the company." [2]

The police managed to locate and arrest Lazaros Toskas, who was taken to the Polygyros court for trial on 18 February (Papageorgiou and Kadoglou could not be located before the in flagrante arrest warrant ran out in the evening of 18 February.) His arrest generated an outpouring of solidarity on the internet due to the flimsiness

of the charges brought against him. As a prominent member of the local chapter of opposition party SYRIZA, Toskas also had the full backing of his party, which expressed outrage at the fact that his arrest was clearly targeting the party itself. A large solidarity gathering of friends, neighbours, party members and fellow residents of Halkidiki was waiting for him outside the courthouse and broke into applause when he walked free after the trial. Upon his release, Toskas filed a counter-lawsuit against his accusers for false statements and diffamation.

The Polygyros prosecutor returned the indictment documents to the police, demanding that the investigation be continued and a stronger argument be made in order to continue pursuing the case. The case file has now been transferred from Polygyros to Thessaloniki, where an investigator has been appointed to determine if the attack on the worksite can be defined as an act of terrorism.

The assault on the Skouries worksite generated extensive coverage on Greek media on 18 February, giving the mining issue more exposure on mainstream media than it had for the several previous months. It must be noted however that evening talk shows essentially provided a platform to local and national politicians who support the mining project (in particular to the mayor of the mining region, Christos Pachtas, whom opponents accuse of being behind the dubious transaction through which the mines found themselves in the possession of Hellas Gold in 2003 when he was deputy minister of finance), while giving little air time to the grievances of local residents and to the damage the project would cause to the environment. TV talk shows also spent considerable time discussing the alleged hostage situation, despite the fact that all indications are that the allegations are false.

As of 19 February, the police is still conducting detentions of residents in the villages of Ierissos and Megali Panagia near Skouries, without however having been able to indict or arrest anyone on credible accusations. Local activists report that the police are demanding that detainees handover DNA samples and threaten them with prosecution for insubordination if they refuse to comply.

Update 20 February 2013 – 10:20am

A local resident we contacted on the phone confirmed that the police is taking DNA samples from detainees, threatening with arrest for insubordination if they fail to comply. Furthermore, there were police cars staffed with two hooded individuals outside the anti-mining coordination meeting in Ierissos yesterday, taking down the registration numbers of vehicles parked outside the meeting venue. The coordination

meeting decided to hold an anti-mining demonstration in the village of Megali Panagia on Sunday 24 February.

Taken from Occupied London: **Further info:**

- background documentary on opposition to mining in the area: “Gold in the time of the crisis: the treasure of Cassandra” by the Exandas Documentaries team (in Greek, English subs to be available soon).

[1] The police made several statements to the media through its spokespeople and by e-mail but had not published any official press release on its website at the time of writing.

[2] The blog managed by Maria Kadoglou, Hellenic Mining Watch, is a valuable source of information about mining plans and activities in Greece (in Greek).

NO MINES, NO MASTERS! ECO-CLASS WAR! RESOURCES

<http://www.anarchistaffinity.org/> A new group of anarchist-communists based in Melbourne

<http://amelbournebookfair.org/> 10th August, 1 St.Helliers Street, Abbotsford, VIC

<http://www.scribd.com/allanboyd> @Venue magazine from WA

<http://iww.org.au> Industrial workers of the world from Australia (IWW)

<http://ecology.iww.org> ' Green Caucus of IWW

<http://forestrescue.org.au>

Melbourne Anarchist Club

<http://mac.anarchobase.com> Environmental archives of Libertarian (anti-state) communists

<http://libcom.org/tags/environment>

<http://www.delicious.com/dr.woooo>

Eco-insurrectionism <http://325.nostate.net/?cat=7>

Latin American indigenous struggles against infrastructure projects

<http://upsidedownworld.org>

Defending the fourth world! <http://ww4report.com>

Autonomedia <http://interactivist.autonomedia.org/taxonomy/term/31>

RTF – European mass land squats network <http://reclaimthefields.org/>

BC Blackout, anti-colonial and anti-capitalist opposition to pipelines.

“ an informal group of Anarchists who identify with insurrectional subsistence. Eco War is Class War. Our self motivated practice and theory of insurrectional subsistence is relevant to weaving the currents between the eco war and the class war. ” <http://bcblackout.wordpress.com/>

<http://coalactionscotland.org.uk/>

Root Force: Promotes anti-infrastructure analysis and action, based on the recognition that infrastructure expansion is a weak point of the system...

<http://www.rootforce.org/>

Contra Information Euro news <http://en.contrainfo.espiv.net/>

communisation, the struggle against work and class struggle beyond workers identity... <http://endnotes.org.uk>

<http://news.infoshop.org/>

<http://disaccords.wordpress.com>

Lizard's Revenge



In July this year, around 500 activists from Australia (and other parts of the world) converged on Olympic Dam for Lizard's Revenge. This event was the result of many years of activism around BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam uranium mine, and the proposal to expand it into the world's largest open pit mine. The police presence at Lizard's Revenge demonstrates the extent to which the state will go to protect corporate interests. Nevertheless, Lizard's Revenge gives us reasons to hope: the convergence had significant support, and was an inspiring experience. It also demonstrates the vitality of the opposition to uranium mining, which will be important over the coming years as we face more proposals to mine or dump uranium in Australia.

The history of the Olympic Dam uranium mine

The Olympic Dam uranium deposit was discovered in 1975 and formally opened by Western Mining Corporation (WMC) in 1988, and is now owned by the mining giant BHP Billiton. It contains the world's largest known uranium deposit, the fourth-largest copper deposit and the fifth largest gold deposit. It is also one of the world's most contentious mines on the issues of Aboriginal rights and environment due to its unique position granted under the 1982 Roxby Downs Indenture Act, a piece of legislation that grants the mining company the right to be a law unto itself. The Indenture Act is a unique bill of rights, or rather a bill of no rights for the environment and Aboriginal

people. It exempts the mine operators from a whole swathe of environment and Aboriginal heritage laws, it gives wide-ranging exemptions from the Environmental Protection Act, the Natural Resources Act and the Aboriginal Heritage Act, the Mining Act and the Freedom of information Act. It also gives the mine operators a free ticket to extract water from the great Artesian Basin at Lake Eyre (Arabunna country) at no cost and with no compensation to the local traditional owners. Water usage is one of the most contentious issues for Olympic Dam. Under the Indenture Act the mine operators are allowed to 'mine water' from the Great Artesian Basin at a rate of up to 42 million litres of water per day at no cost to the company and with no compensation to the local traditional owners, the Arabunna people. Current water usage is estimated to be around 36 million litres per day, and if the expansion goes ahead that will increase to 200 million litres per day, an increase to 42 million litres from the Great Artesian Basin and the remainder from a yet-to-be built desalination plant at Point Lowly near Port Augusta. The water use from the mine has already had a serious impact on the desert ecosystem with many mound springs drying up. The springs are also sacred places for the Arabunna people, and their destruction causes serious cultural and physical distress for them. Indigenous resistance to the mine has always been very strong which has spawned a long-standing collaboration between Indigenous and non-indigenous activists from the very start to this day. In 1982 the construction of the Borefield Road some 50kms from the mine site was stopped by local Aboriginal people blockading at Canegrass Swamp, with the government capitulating and diverting the road. In August 1983 and August 1984 activists from the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy organised a blockade at the mine site resulting in hundreds arrests each year: the blockade lasted until November of that year. And from 1999 to 2004 Uncle Kevin Buzzacott established the Arabunna going home camp in his traditional lands on the shores of Lake Eyre, some 130kms from the mine, to protest the mine's water usage from his country. The Keepers of Lake Eyre, as the aboriginal and non-indigenous activists were known, engaged in daily stop-work actions on the water bores and blockades and occupations of the mine site, as well as many Supreme and Federal Court challenges.

The proposed expansion

The expansion of the Olympic Dam uranium mine would exacerbate the existing problems with the mine. The proposal would have meant digging for five years before even reaching the ore body, creating the largest open pit mine in the world. The environmental impact of this would be enormous, and include a massive carbon footprint; significant exposure of radon gas; radioactive tailings dams which would leach into the groundwater system; and a massive expansion of the water use to 200 million litres a day, requiring the development of a desalination plant as well as increased pressure on the Great Artesian Basin. The potential effects on workers are also notable. Gas masks and other safety equipment that workers in uranium mines are provided with is often uncomfortable and hinders free movement, and is therefore often used incorrectly. BHP Billiton's workplace safety evaluations have focused on cost analysis, evaluating safety on the basis of cost rather than workers' health. There has also been no information on the effects on workers at Olympic Dam so far, due to the exclusion of the mine from the Freedom of Information Act.

Direct action at the convergence

The convergence embraced a diversity of tactics, and over the five days of the event actions included blocking the road with a game of cricket, dances and speeches on the effects of the mine and of the uranium industry more generally. On 17 July six protesters were arrested on Olympic Dam Highway at Roxby Downs. The arrestees, who were part of the larger Breakfast Not Bombs creative road block ,were transported to Roxby Downs police station. Four were charged with failure to comply with a police direction and two were charged with failure to cease loitering. The two who were charged with failure to cease loitering were required to provide a DNA sample to police. Following transfer to Roxby Downs police station the arrestees did not apply for bail and were segregated into male and female holding cells. Male arrestees were held four to a cell designed for one, given two blankets between them and repeatedly refused requests for more blankets. One arrestee was not given the opportunity to speak to a lawyer or make a phone call for the duration of his stay at Roxby Downs, only to be granted a call very late at night which his lawyer did not answer. The arrestees were held at

Roxby Downs until past midnight after pressure to accept bail conditions. The conditions which refused included two hours to collect gear and leave the festival and not to leave the state until their yet-to-be-set court date, which would have probably not have been until early September. The arrestees were repeatedly advised that they would be transferred to Port Augusta in the early evening. The arrestees were transported just after midnight. The transportation van had no seatbelts and was air conditioned, and arrestees were refused blankets or extra items of clothing necessary for the cold. Arrestees arrived at Port Augusta at 3.30am and were put in single cells. All arrestees were tried by speakerphone from the main circulation desk of the police station without any external observers. All but one protester pleaded guilty to the charges and were fined \$150 plus extra costs, totalling \$624 each.

One protester pleaded not guilty to the charge of failure to comply with a police direction and will appear in Port Augusta Magistrates Court on Wednesday 12 September 2012 at 11.30am.

Show us your solidarity!

People arrested at Lizard's Revenge

are facing fines of up to \$800 each.

If you can help them out, please donate to :Unnamed Collective

Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000

*Account Number 145 456 943 with Arrestee Solidarity in the Reference line *** Note confirm that funds still needed before sending (Ed.)*

A broader critique of the role of the state

One of the biggest issues at Lizard's Revenge was the manner in which the police pandered to immoral corporate interests. The area around the mine was declared a protected area under new South Australian legislation, the Protective Security Act 2007. This legislation grants police the power to issue instruction to any persons in the area: the refusal to follow these instructions

regardless of the nature of them will result in arrest. The refusal of the police commissioner of South Australia to answer questions about police numbers and costs borne by the state reveal the level of secrecy and collusion that exists between corporate entities and the state. This is by no means a new occurrence nor was the police presence unexpected by either the protesters or the media. The police presence consisted of a 24-hour road block, canine teams, police horses, police on off-road bikes, hundreds of officers (though no one would admit how many), a police helicopter that was seen in the sky for hours and hours each day, and often into the night. All of this was mobilised to monitor and harass peaceful protesters. The cost of an operation of such logistical intensity must have been significant. Every person entering the protected area had their identity recorded, including their name, address and date of birth. If these details were not given the police would refuse permission to enter or leave the area. Many cars were defected for minor often comical reasons, several cars were searched, many of these searches included the use of police dogs. The police's excessive presence was designed to do one thing :intimidate those assembled for a peaceful protest. The reason we were there was to protest uranium mining, but again we can see that the problem is not just the myopic stupidity of corporate greed, it is also a problem of power and the use of legitimised violence and intimidation by the police force.

Embodying alternatives

While the police attempted to intimidate protesters, the Lizard's Revenge camp embodied a different kind of politics. We set up a small camp with our Perth group, where we slept, ate, regrouped after actions and argued politics while drinking wine and listening to ukulele around a fire late into the night. Sounds pretty chilled, right? It was. The people that converged at Lizard's Revenge from all over Australia — all over the world! — were amazing, compassionate and inspiring. Bands and cabaret acts performed on the stage every night, a great wind-down after the tension of the day's actions. The music was great, and the main stage became a meeting place to find friends made during the day and share a drink with them around a fire or dance like mad to whatever band was playing. The Food Not Bombs kitchen made breakfast

and dinner every day of the festival. People volunteered to help prepare and serve the food, which tasted amazing. The toilet crew seemed to be working all the time, trying to find spare hessian and star pickets from people in the camp, digging great big ‘shit pits’ in the ground and filling them in when they got full. The toilet seats were on plastic chairs, surrounded by a hessian screen that gave you some privacy (from the camp, though I’m sure the police helicopter got a great look). People volunteered to be on the toilet crew! Don’t tell me that self-organising autonomous communities can’t work, not when people stand up and volunteer for what was literally the shittiest job in the camp. The experience was inspiring. There was space for diversity of tactics and solidarity between a group of people that had converged from every state and many other countries. There was intense respect for Uncle Kev Buzzacott and the traditional owners. It was the first time some of us had done anything like this and it seemed many of us moved from a state of apprehension to empowerment, motivation and connection with so many incredible people, and are ready to do it all over again!

How effective was Lizard’s Revenge?

Lizard’s Revenge was an incredibly important milestone for the Australian nuclear free movement. Following the victories of the 1990s, when a large and powerful movement stopped the Jabiluka uranium mine in Kakadu national park; blocked the Pangea international nuclear waste dump in WA; forced the governments in most states and territories to put bans on uranium mining, nuclear power generation and exports, the nuclear industry was forced onto the back foot. The movement too entered hibernation, with only a few flash points during the 2000s.

However, protests across the country have been mounting in the last few years in response to some serious threats: a nuclear waste dump in the NT, the disbandment of the national three-mine policy which has led to a fruitless boom in uranium exploration and proposed new mines in WA, NT and SA, the expansion of Ranger uranium mine in the NT and of course Olympic Dam. The narrative of Lizard’s Revenge was that the Sleepy Lizard will wake and claim revenge, so in true form the anti-nuclear movement awoke. A large, well-

coordinated and confrontational gathering of over 500 people in the desert signals that the Australian nuclear free movement is again ready to oppose and avenge years of uranium mining, tailings leaks, accidents, safety breaches, non-compliance and failed rehabilitation. There are thousands of dedicated activists willing to take the fight directly to the source and blockade deadly mines and dumps.

Only weeks after Lizard's Revenge BHP Billiton announced they would delay a decision on the expansion of Olympic Dam until 2014, perhaps in part in response to protests, but more likely as a result of 'tough economic conditions' internationally. Only days after BHP Billiton's announcement, Canadian company Cameco announced they too would delay their proposed uranium mine at Kintyre in the Karlamilyi National Park in West Australia. These are positive developments, but it doesn't mean we've won. Not only do we need to build a movement that will stop further proposals to expand Olympic Dam (and the existing uranium mine there), Ranger in the NT, the suite of projects across NT, SA and WA, we also need to address other serious threats, such as the proposed mine at Wiluna which is currently being fast-tracked through environmental assessments. We need to reclaim the ground that has been lost since the '90s, to connect up all the struggles and confront the nuclear industry and governments wherever their ugly head rises.

Nathalie Latter, Bilbo Taylor,

Lian Sinclair, Sam, Laura Hogan and crew. (This article was taken from
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/107025235/avenue-3-web>)

